REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed February 8, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Padawer et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0052196) (hereinafter "Padawer"). Claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Applicants present the following for consideration.

Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone conference on August 5, 2008. The independent claims as amended were discussed with regard to the cited reference. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments overcome the cited reference.

Claim Rejections

With respect to claim 1, the Office Action recited that Padawer teaches a "unifying the relevant contacts and providing the unified contacts" as the response data may originate from a variety of different databases having different data formats. Once the various response entries are received back from the filter, the entries are passed to a data interface that then formats the entries to appear homogeneous despite being from different databases. The homogeneous data structures are then used to render the display thus resulting in a unified appearance to the user (Padawer Paragraph 001 9-0020). "monitoring the input field to determine when a new search input is entered and automatically updating the contacts in response to the new search input" as

(Padawer Figures 2A-2F)." While the Applicants respectfully disagree, Claim 1 has been

amended to more clearly define the invention.

As amended, Claim 1 recites in part "accessing each of the contacts within at least three

contact lists from the device; wherein accessing contacts from the device includes accessing a

contacts database and a call log; wherein the contact lists are automatically accessed without

obtaining a user input and wherein the contact lists are automatically selected based on what

application received the search input; … searching the concatenated list for any information

within each of the accessed contacts to locate relevant contacts that include the search input,

wherein the information within each contact that is searched includes an email address" and "

automatically updating the contacts in response to the new search input; and contacting a user

from the provided unified contacts using any of the available contact methods available for that

user; wherein the available contact methods include telephone, email, Short Messaging Service

(SMS), and Instant Messaging (IM)." Among other differences, Padawer returns telephone

numbers with names based on the search input and does not teach using different contact

methods to contact a user.

Instead, Padawer teaches searching through lists to return telephone numbers and names.

At paragraph 35, Padawer states in part "For example, if the user request was in the form of

dialing input, the caller need not specify whether the number is from the call log, a contacts list,

whether the caller is engaging speed dial, whether the caller is first entering the area-code or

whether the caller is just entering the local number." The results returned in Padawer result in a

list of telephone numbers and names. The results, however, do not include email addresses, or

other forms of communication methods for that user. Claim 1, on the other hand, allows a user to access the selected contact using any available contact method that is available to the user. Additionally, the results returned to a user include can include the other methods of contact available to the user. For example, in Figure 6 of the Applicants' specification, the results that are returned include an address, e.g. Mariae@earthlink.com, as well as telephone numbers. Additionally, Claim 1 recites that the contact lists are automatically selected based on the application receiving the search input. For at least the reasons presented above, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Claims depending from Claim 1 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Claim 10 as amended recites in part "contacting a user from the provided unified contacts using any of the available contact methods available for that user; wherein the available contact methods include telephone, email, Short Messaging Service (SMS), and Instant Messaging (IM)." Claim 10 is proposed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above. Claims depending from Claim 10 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Claim 18 as amended recites in part "accessing the contacts from the data store; wherein accessing the contacts include accessing a plurality of contact lists; wherein the contact lists are selected automatically based on the application" and "contacting a user from the provided unified contacts using any of the available contact methods available for that user; wherein the available contact methods include telephone, email, Short Messaging Service (SMS), and Instant Messaging (IM)." Claim 18 is proposed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above.

Claims depending from Claim 18 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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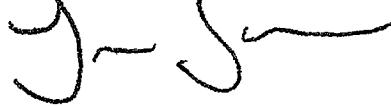
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